

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W
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R 141345Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6109
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELTN, EAID, TU, IR
SUBJECT: IRANIAN-TURKISH TIR TRANSIT DISCUSSIONS

REF: A) TEHRAN 12237 (76) B) SOFIA 0062

1. DURING THE TWO MONTHS THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE NOVEMBER 12-15 JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN TEHRAN ON TURKISH-IRAN TIR TRANSIT DISPUTE, THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO COMMENT IN TURKISH PRESS ON TURKISH-IRANIAN STALEMATE. DURING CALL ON SEFIK ONAT, DEPDIR, BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, MFA, ON JANUARY 6, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT TEHRAN MEETING PRODUCED NO AGREEMENT. ONAT SAID TALKS ARE STALLED, NO FUTURE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED AND IT IS NOT EVEN CLEAR AS TO WHICH SIDE SHOULD MAKE THE NEXT APPROACH IN GETTING THE TALKS STARTED AGAIN.

2. AT TEHRAN TALKS, ONAT SAID GOI MAINTAINED POSITION THAT THEY BE GIVEN CONCESSIONAL TIR TARIFF RATES. TURKS ASSUME THAT IRANIANS WHO CURRENTLY PAY 40 KURUS PER TON/KILOMETER, WANT SOMETHING BELOW 25 KURUS PER TON/KILOMETER IN RETURN FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION
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FO \$1.2 BILLION FRAME AGREEMENT. IRANIANS ALSO OFFERED JOINT TRUCKING COMPANY LURE, BUT TURKISH PRIVATE SECTOR IS NOT INTERESTED AND GOT BELIEVES NET RETURN IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO TURKEY WOULD NOT EXCEED \$10 MILLION ANNUALLY.

3. GOT ON OTHER HAND INSISTS THAT TIR AGREEMENT IS

SEPARATE FROM FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. TIR FEES WERE RAISED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN REVENUE TO MAINTAIN PRESENT ROADS IN FACE OF ENORMOUS INCREASE IN TIR TRAFFIC. ONAT SAID TURKISH NOTES (HE WAS NOTETAKED) OF OCTOBER 1975 MEETING WHERE \$1.2 BILLION FRAMEWORK WAS SIGNED SHOWED CLEARLY THAT 1) IRANIANS WERE ADVISED THAT GOT WOULD RAISE TIR TARIFFS SINCE TURKISH TAXPAYER COULD NOT SUBSIDIZE MAGNITUDE OF IRANIAN TIR TRAFFIC, AND 2) FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO BUILD UP TURKISH INFRASTRUCTURE (RAIL, PORT, ROAD) SO THAT IT COULD HANDLE VASTLY INCREASED IRANIAN REQUIREMENTS IN YEARS AHEAD. IN ADDITION, WOOD AND PAPER PRODUCTS AND MEAT COMPLEX ENVISAGED IN FRAME AGREEMENT WOULD BENEFIT BOTH COUNTRIES EQUALLY. SINCE IRANIAN SIDE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY OBJECT TO THIS IN OCTOBER 1975, TURKS ASSUMED IRANIANS HAD ACCEPTED TURKISH RATIONALE.

4. ONAT SAID THAT \$12 MILLION CREDIT FROM IRAN FOR VAN FERRIES AND \$30 MILLION CREDIT FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT WERE SIGNED AT SAME TIME IN 1976. CREDIT FOR FERRIES HAD BEEN PAID IN TWO \$6 MILLION TRANCHES. HOLD-UP ON \$30 MILLION REVOLVES AROUND GOI INSISTENCE ON SUPPLYING IRANIAN-ASSEMBLED ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. GOT HAS ACCEPTED THIS, BUT INSISTS THAT PRICES MUST BE INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE. IRANIANS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO THIS.
MACOMBER

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